



**TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON RAISED BILL S.B. 948, AN ACT ADDRESSING  
EDUCATION FUNDING AND RACIAL EQUITY**

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Bishop Lorenzo Stewart. I am here on behalf of myself and my wife, Minister Alfreda Stewart. We are proud Bridgeport residents who have had children in the Bridgeport school system and currently have grandchildren in this system. I am here today in support of SB 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

For more than 2 decades, I have witnessed the collapse of Bridgeport public education from my eldest child attending in 1993 to my youngest grandchild who is currently attending public schools. I have walked the halls and attended teachers conferences, PPTs and PTSO meetings. My children have attended over 15 schools collectively, and I have often had to manage schedules for 4 different schools in one year because of the different educational needs of my family, ranging from intellectual disabilities to social-emotional and behavioral deficiencies.

I have also had to manage out of district school because of Bridgeport's lack of funding to special education needs. There is no reason why I should have to send my grandchild to school in Milford just because the city I live in doesn't have the means of meeting her most basic needs. A parent in a well funded school district doesn't have to worry about any of what I just mentioned. It is the epitome of racism and classism to tell me I have no other choice but to jump through hoops every single day just to make sure my grandchildren are educated properly. If white, well off parents don't have to do it, neither should we.

That is why I am asking you to support S.B. 948

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